

RECKLESS RALPH'S

## DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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PUBLIC THANKS TO MR.GILBERT PATTEN

By Homer Kurtz

It has been my intention for a long time to write Gilbert Patten; the author of the Merriwell stories that ran years ago in Tip Top Weekly; a letter of thanks for those fine novels for boys, and for grown-ups as well. So I am taking this opportunity to publicly express my thanks to Burt L. Standish for the many, many hours of fine entertainment I received in reading about Frank and Dick Merriwell and their great number of friends. Not only do I wish to thank Gilbert Patten for his well-written tales, but I want to express my gratitude for the moral influence that Frank Merriwell gave me. Undoubtedly Tip Top Weekly had a great deal to do in helping shape my character, and many times, as a boy, when temptation came before me, I paused and would wonder what Frank would do in a case of that kind. Not always did I make the right decision, but I honestly believe that my acquaintance with Frank, helped me along life's highway to a great extent. In 1899, when I was 10 years old, my father brought home to read, Tip Top Quarterly No.1. These were the first Tip Tops I had



ever seen. The front cover, and a page or two were missing, but the rest was in fine condition. I eagerly read page after page of Frank's adventures at Fardale, his furlough home, the appearance of Elsie Bellwood on the scene in "The Young Life Savers", the death of his Uncle Asher, and the start of Frank's travels around the world in company with his guardian, "Hot" Scotch. If I am not mistaken, the last number of the Quarterly (No. 13) contained Frank Merriwell in New York, of, Fighting an Unknown Foe, and the front cover illustration showed Frank battling desperately against his unknown enemy on the back end of an elevated train. It was a great disappointment when Frank went on to Chicago in his travels and I was left in New York. If I had had any money in those days, you can rest assured I would have found out at once, how Frank made out on his trip West; but nickels were few and far between in those days for yours truly, and several years passed by, before I got a chance to follow him in his travels. In the next year or two, I read several Tip Tops, but they ran anywhere from No. 70 to No. 200, and these were giving Frank's adventures at Yale. While I was attending at school in 1905 (just a little brick country schoolhouse in Eastern Indiana) the teachers were kind enough and wise enough to send to Street & Smith and get a good many numbers of the Medal Library, all about Merriwell's adventures until he arrived at Yale, the first time. My thanks to the teacher who made it possible for me to travel on with Frank, on his trip West.

Back in 1925, I bought from Street & Smith, all the Merriwell series, and now have them stored away in an old trunk in the cellar. I read the missing numbers that I had never been able to get, and was also looking ahead



to the day when my two boys would be old enough to read novels. They finally arrived at that age and I introduced Frank Merriwell to them. They liked him fine from the very first. I am proud to say that these books have done my boys a lot of good. Only in the last ten years time have I come to a full realization of the good that the Merriwells done for me and mine and I want to express my thanks to Mr. Patton while he is still here on earth with us. Somehow I know, that if they did me good, that there were many others over the world, that they also helped, and I know that they are also grateful. It seems to me that Mr. Patton deserves all the finer things in life, for the type of books that he placed before the American youth. When it comes time for him to cross the Great Divide, he can go, happy in the thought that he had a world of influence over thousands of boys; that through Frank and Dick Merriwell, he helped many a lad to lead a more clean and useful life. That there never has been or will be, any finer type of fiction heroes, placed before Young America, for them to pattern after. May you live long, Gilbert Patton, and enjoy the rewards of your labor that you so richly deserve. All glory to you and the noble work you have done. I know that Frank Merriwell will live on and on in the hearts of mankind for a great number of years. My hat is always off, to you.

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A REAL PRIZE PACKAGE By  
W.M. Burns.

As a winner of a prize package of novels in Mr. Chas. Bragin's recent novel contest, I want to tell you fellows who did not enter the contest, something about what you missed by not doing so. When Mr. Bragin notified me that I had won the first prize of novels, he



asked me to send him my list of novels, and he would try and send me some of my wants. I sent him the requested list, expecting to receive about a half dozen novels, not over a dozen at the most.

But Charlie never does anything by halves. When my package arrived, you can imagine my surprise when I opened it, to discover, not a half dozen, or even a dozen novels, but exactly 50 of my colored cover wants. The lot was comprised of: 2 James Boys Weekly-2 Yankee Doodles-4 Young Klondikes-23 Young Rover Library-4 early Brave and Bold-4 early Diamond Dick, Jr. Weekly-2 Jack Wright Pluck and Luck-a few All Arounds-and a few early Rough Riders; enough of the latter two kinds to bring the lot up to 50 novels. Surely a prize worth competing for. Now follows, I have an idea Charlie might consider running a similar contest this coming winter. Why not write him, urging that he do so?

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### THE "MERRIWELL" MAGAZINE STORIES

By Harold C. Holmes

There were about 64 magazine stories about the Merriwells. None of them were reprints. Few of the boys care about them enough to have bothered to get them, so they are almost unknown. So I think a bit of an article about them, may not be amiss.

Immediately after the final number (136) of New Tip Top Weekly, the Merriwells were continued in Tip Top Semi-Monthly Magazine. That ran for 18 issues. Then the name was changed to Wide Awake Magazine, and Merriwell stories were in the first 8 issues. I have those numbers but have not read them since they were issued, so shall make no attempt to go into details on them. As I remember them, they were not very interesting tales.



The next Merriwell story was published in Sport Story Magazine for Apr. 8, 1927, a two-part story, titled, "Young Frank Merriwell". Frank Merriwell, Jr., has been expelled from Fardale Academy, for a fight he had with the athletic director, and this story is of his life at Clifton Academy. In this story are introduced two characters that became very prominent in much later stories; Kirk Barget and his sister Cynthia. It seems funny to read Merriwell stories up-to-date. Cynthia was a typical "wise flapper" and Frank was a full-fledged "crack-wise guy". But what a throwback to old Tip Top No. 2. Cynthia goes out horseback riding and is endangered by an approaching train; Frank rescues her, but does he do it from horseback like the original Frank? Oh no! he uses his "tin Lizzio". The story ends with a football game between two of the dormitories. This was quite an interesting story.

Next story was in two parts; "Frank Merriwell's Exiles". It drops Frank, Jr., and goes back to his father's college days. Frank, Sr. has just completed his freshman year at Yale. A boy of Frank's acquaintance is going to enter Yale in the fall. This boy has gone "jazz age" and the boy's father gets Frank to take the boy to a lake for the summer. Companions of the boy join up until Frank has 12 under his care. It is a story of water sports and robbery of the receipts of a water carnival. A mediocre story.

The next three stories were each in two parts: "F.M.'s Secret"- "F.M.'s Enemy"-and "F.M.'s Polo Team". It was really one very long story, scene laid at Yale, and had much of baseball, and the continuing feature through the six issues, was Frank's training of his polo horse, and the efforts of his enemies to make it miserable for him. Frank rooms in



Durfee and his pals include Bruce Browning, Harry Rattleton, Jack Diamond, and Bart Hodge. But contrary to the real Merriwell, Hodge is the least prominent of any of his friends. Very commonplace stories.

Next was a two-part story, "F.M. and the Ivory Hunters". I couldn't understand the title at all until I read it. It is a slang phrase meaning, a scout for professional baseball players. The story dealt with baseball and the efforts of a gambling gang to cash in on a professional who entered Yale as an amateur. Story-only fair.

Next-a two-part story, "F.M. and the Gamma Gang."-Baseball-A tough frat ruining a promising pitcher. A robbery of the museum-train wreck on the way to play Brown in Providence and Frank's adventure in the Yale Aviation Unit. Story-only fair.

This completed the 14 different issues in Sports Story Magazine. These stories were laid at Yale, almost without exception. The street names, buildings and other locations were fictitious.

The next Merriwell story was in Fame and Fortune-2nd Nov. number, 1928, titled, "Frank Merriwell Enters Real Estate". Story goes back to Frank, Jr., who has left Yale after completing two years (altho as yet, there had never been a story about him at Yale). He comes from Bloomfield to New York with \$50. in his pocket, to make good on his own. After plenty of adventure, he gets a job selling real estate. Pretty good story.

Next was in the same magazine, "F.M. and the Wall Street Wizard". The real estate firm Frank was with, got into financial trouble, and Frank got a job selling bonds in a brokerage house. He exposes his boss as a swindler. Story was O.K.

Then in the same magazine, which I do not



have; "Frank Merriwell in the Curb Market" and "Frank Merriwell's Lucky Dollar." 7

The name of the magazine was now changed to: Fortune Story Magazine. In the July 19, 1929 issue, was the story "F.M.'s Crooked Tip." This was of special interest because of the old characters which were introduced. Frank, Jr., is still a stock salesman-Frank Sr. comes to New York to see him. While in the office, Hans Dunnerwurst comes in and they have a great reunion. Hans is now the prosperous owner of a large delicatessen. He has been approached by a salesman of stock in the Eureka Television Corp. F.M. Jr., advises him to let it alone. Then Frank and his father call on Harry Rattleton at the plant of a huge radio corp. Harry is the experimental engineer on television for them. From there they go to the office of the Eureka to investigate and are shown the machine and given a demonstration. Rattles says it is a wonderful invention, after being called in for his opinion. and he buys some stock in the company, on the spot. Frank, Jr., gets behind the company and boosts its stock to all his friends. Hans invests \$15,000. Frank and his father go to Atlantic City for a holiday. When they got back, the bubble had burst. There had been a wild boom in Eureka stock and Deitzer, the company head, had beat it with about \$100,000. Frank, Jr., lost his job and was disgraced with his customers. To clear himself, he starts out to get Deitzer and recover the money. They find out how the demonstrating machine was faked, too late. After plenty of adventure, the money is recovered and Deitzer is arrested. Deitzer turns out to be the old Yale enemy of Frank Sr., Roland Ditson. Ditson was only out of Sing Sing a short time, and he goes back for another stretch. An interesting story.



The Fortune Story Magazine ran until Dec. 1929, but no more Merriwell stories.

Then came Top Notch Magazine stories and here you get some of the most interesting Merriwell stories I ever read-so far above those I have already described, that there is no comparison. Nineteen of them-the first 5 I do not have-began in 1st Oct.No. of 1929. These were one-part stories and the titles: Frank Merriwell, Freshman-F.M.'s Fighting Blood-F.M.Under Suspicion F.F.M. In Disgrace-F.M.'s Relentless Foe.

The next is the 1st one I have-2nd Dec.No. 1929, "F.M.Beats the Game". These stories are all about Frank, Jr., at Yale. His roommate is Rockwell Bowie, who is another Brad Burkhart. Kirk Barget and his sister Cynthia are very prominent all thru these stories except the last three. Frank's setup with them is precisely that of the Dick Merriwell-June and Chester Arlington of the Tip Tops. In the Sports Story Mag. all New Haven locations were phoney, but in all the Top Notch, the street names, locations, etc., are exactly accurate, and real names of real places. Even to such a detail as this: "Frank and a girl, Myrna Queen were abtasted in a movie house on Church Street, between Crown and George Sts." And there is a movie house there now and has been for years. In fact two of them, one on each side of the street. Story concerns Kirk's attempts to break the friendship of Frank and Cynthia.

Next number-"F.M.at Gray Gables," Story starts with final period of a Yale-Harvard football game at Cambridge. Jack Deering, the Harvard center invites Frank and three of Frank's friends go in a different car and are not really in the story, only appearing at the very end, as they were arrested for speeding, in Worcester, Mass.



To Frank's delight, Cynthia Barget is a member of the party which arrives at Gray Gables, as a wild snowstorm starts, which turns into a furious blizzard. They are marooned there and that wild and stormy night, became involved in some most weird happenings, which imply the presence of ghostly hands. Also, a wrestling match under the strangest of circumstances. One of the most interesting stories I ever read. Holds your attention every instant; no let down.

Next number-"F.M.'s Discovery". Scene is still Gray Gables. Beautiful morning after the storm. Deering and Frank out on snowshoes before breakfast, see two men pursuing and shooting at a third man. This ushers in a series of strange happenings in the house that equal those of the night before during the storm. A gang of counterfeiters is finally uncovered. These two numbers are the 1st and 2nd Jan. issues of 1930, and you should pick them up if you get the chance and enjoy two good stories.

All these stories were one part, but the next, "F.M.'s Speed" was a two-part story. Very good tales dealing largely with ice sports and plenty of adventure thrown in.

Next comes a 3-part story, "F.M. Keeps His Vow". Three crack-a-jack yarns. Opens with a fine description of a Yale-Dartmouth Freshmen Hockey game. Frank and three of his pals go to the opening of a new night club in New Haven. One of the singers is Myrna Queen, with whom Frank has already had quite a friendship. Myrna sings her number-house lights are lowered. Man jumps from a table and goes up to Myrna. As he reaches her, he is killed by a knife. It looks as if Myrna had done it. In the confusion Frank reaches Myrna and tells her she will be suspected, and to beat it. This she does, thru a secret



door to the cache of the club's bootleg liquor. The police come. Cynthia Barget was there with her brother and Donald North. To preserve her from scandal in the wild confusion, Frank gets her thru the liquor door. Below they find Myrna. The two girls don't take to each other as they both admire Frank. Thru another door, comes Mortimer Wright, a bootlogger, who once was Frank's roommate at Yale, but who turned crook. A terrific fight takes place. Frank wins and leaves with the two girls. Frank had been forced to leave his overcoat in the club, and knowing he will be traced by it the next day, he goes to the police station to voluntarily tell his version of the affair. The chief questions him only a little and lets him go, but puts two shadows on his trail to watch him. Frank gets wise to them and several pages of fine humor occurs. The stunts Frank pulls on the two shadows are plenty. Myrna is finally arrested and acknowledges she killed the man. But she was trying to take the rap for Aldo, the Gypsy leader of the orchestra, who had always been like a father to her. Aldo had killed the man by throwing his knife. Frank proves that. Myrna is released and leaves New Haven.

Next is a three-part story, "Flaming Hate, or, F.M. on the Diamond." Three fine stories about baseball at Yale. Cynthia gets real peeved at Frank, but finally they have such a fine time, making up. Also some wild auto ride Frank and Cynthia have on the Milford Turnpike toward New York, to drag Kirk out of a gambling house.

"The Red Arrow" is the next story in 3 parts and a very fine tale. Frank and some of his chums go to Camden, Maine, from Boston, on a private yacht. Have some adventures on the trip and Frank meets Gladys Cloud and



her father. She sure acts like a silly kid 11 and as Frank said, "she gushed like a goysor." Our good friend and member of our Brotherhood, Bill Burns of Rockland, Mo., sure should read this story, because several pages are devoted to something with which he is probably very familiar. It is a description of the beauty of the view when arriving at night, into Camden harbor. Past Rockland-Rockport-Negro Island Light and the view of the lights of Camden as you approach. That night, Frank and his pals go to a dance at the clubhouse in Camden. Frank gets a great crush on a 32 year old girl, a reporter for a Boston paper, Judy O'Day. Next morning, Frank tries out the Red Arrow, the boat he has entered in the coming speed scooter races. Then he drives out Mountain Street to the foot of Mt. Battle and climbs a cliff, determined to scrape his initials on the face of the cliff, in the lichens and moss, just as the Camdenites told him his father had done, many years before. (See Tip Top No. 115, "F.M.'s Fist, or, Bound to Tell the Truth"). As Frank is clinging there, an enemy at the top of the cliff, determined to cause Frank to fall to his death. Frank is saved by Judy O'Day. That night Judy and Frank foil an attempt to injure his boat. Gladys Cloud warns Frank of danger to him from her own father, a gambler who plans to crook the races. That night Frank is lured aboard a boat in the harbor. A terrific fight occurs, which is particularly well described. Frank gets overboard and swims ashore. Phone call from Gladys asking for help, results in a wild auto ride. Gladys is really the wife of Cloud (not the daughter) and had been helping him in his gambling plots, but is fed up with it. Cloud is arrested. Frank is torn by fascination for Judy, and the realization that owing to the difference in their ages, anything more than friendship would be the



height of folly. After the race, that night, on the clubhouse balcony, Frank and Judy talk situation out, and the story closes with Judy and Frank entering the club for the evening dance.

This, as far as I know, ends everything ever written about the Morriwells. And what a spot to leave it in. I shall always wonder how Frank got out of this affair with Judy, and back to Cynthia Barget. It isn't the first affair he had had, and believe me, when Cynthia finds out about it, Frank would be in for something, and how ! Cynthia was no "fading lily", I assure you, and what a bawling out, Frank is in for. Cynthia would sputter like a firecracker.

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BUFFALO BILL

By Rev. Roland Sawyer.

Thanks to the work of my teacher-mother, I was able to read very good at the age of ten. I found upstairs a copy of Ned Buntline's story of Buffalo Bill's Adventures in the West. How eagerly I read it, again and again. The more thrilling places in the story, as when Wild Bill fought with the McKamles gang and killed the entire eleven, and when he had his duel with Dave Tutt.

These, I knew by heart, and lie there and think about them, before going to sleep, after each reading.

For writing that book, Ned Buntline became my benefactor.

Next to Robinson Crusoe, it was the greatest book of my boyhood.

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 This is a REPRINT...